



*A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman*

Eliminate Taxpayer Funding for the Woodrow Wilson Center

June 27, 2012

Program or Item Targeted: Funding for the Woodrow Wilson Center.

Cost of Program or Item: The Wilson Center is requesting [\\$10.492 million for FY2013](#).

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: In 1968 Congress created the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, also known as the Woodrow Wilson Center, as an official memorial to President Woodrow Wilson. The Center's mission is to commemorate the ideals and concerns of Woodrow Wilson through the study of national and world affairs. According to the Center itself, it serves as a think tank and is designed to "build a bridge between the worlds of academia and public policy, to inform and develop solutions to the nation's problems and challenges." The Center is both privately and publically funded, receiving about 30% of the budget from taxpayer subsidies.

Why This Item Is Wasteful: With an enormous debt and annual deficit, the Congress cannot afford to subsidize think tanks. The Center spends taxpayer funds on duplicative projects similar to those found at countless institutes of higher education and policy research centers which are privately funded. Think tanks can fully exist and function without accepting public funds, if they are efficient and if the public is interested enough in their research to fund them. The taxpayer should be allowed to do so rather than being forced to do so, as is happening in this case. What is more, there have also been questions about the non-partisan nature of the Woodrow Wilson Center, which honored the Foreign Minister of Turkey with their annual Public Service award shortly after Turkey supported an anti-Israel flotilla, voted against sanctions against Iran, and likened the deaths of eight activists in the flotilla incident to the September 11th attacks. Even if this think tank were actually non-partisan, the federal government should not be federally subsidizing its existence.

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: Members may want to consider introducing stand-alone legislation to eliminate the Woodrow Wilson International Center. If you are interested in pursuing this opportunity to cut spending for a wasteful program, please contact Rick Eberstadt at Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov.

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

*"The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it,
working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn't be paying for."*

